

Business diverts 6M pounds of waste from landfills

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A waste removal business said it has redirected 6 million pounds of food waste from landfills to composting facilities this year. Arrowaste began offering the composting option to commercial businesses through its separate New Soil division due to growing client demand, particularly from food service clients.

“Companies have shown excitement about diverting their food waste away from landfills for multiple reasons,” according to Russell Boersma, general manager of Arrowaste.

He said the service helps its clients meet their sustainability goals.

Besides decreasing the amount of waste taking up landfill space, composting also helps the environment by encouraging moisture retention, which reduces the amount of water required for plants to thrive, while simultaneously diminishing greenhouse gas emissions produced by landfills.

According to the U.S. Compost Council, an estimated 72 percent of the current waste stream is organic and can be composted.

New Soil

New Soil picks up any food waste from businesses for transportation to compost facilities.

Arrowaste client Barfly Ventures, which owns restaurants HopCat, Stella’s Lounge, McFadden’s and Grand Rapids Brewing Co., has benefited from the composting option.

“BarFly Ventures works hard to divert up to 90 percent of our total waste stream though composting and recycling,” said Autumn Sands, sustainability manager of BarFly Ventures.

She said Arrowaste and New Soil worked with the company to develop a custom waste diversion program, which allowed [BarFly](#) to bundle all of its waste services.

“They make it possible for us to divert over 6,000 cubic yards of waste from ever entering a landfill or incinerator every year in Grand Rapids,” Sands said.

Boersma predicts composting is the “next big trend in the disposal industry.”

“We’re happy to be able to offer this service to our customers to help them reach their waste diversion and sustainability goals,” Boersma said.

[Arrowwaste](#) currently services Holland, Grand Rapids, and most of Allegan, Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa counties in southwest Michigan.



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